

Message Text

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NODIS

FOR ASST SECY SAUNDERS FROM HUMMEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, PEPR, PK, US

SUBJECT: GROWING NEED FOR EARLY FRENCH NOTIFICATION TO PAKISTAN

ON REPROCESSING PLANT

1. WE ARE MUCH CONCERNED HERE ABOUT EVIDENCE WE ARE NOW SEEING:

(A) THAT PAK REACTION TO AGHA SHEHI'S TWO TALKS WITH SECY VANCE IS GENERALLY NEGATIVE AND DISCOURAGED; (B) THAT PLANS ARE WELL ALONG FOR GHULAM ISHAQ (SECGEN IN CHIEF AND MOST SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT) TO VISIT MOSCOW FOR DISCUSSIONS OF INCREASED PAK-SOVIET COOPERATION; AND (C) THAT AGHA SHAHI WILL PROBABLY FOLLOW ON WITH ANOTHER VISIT AT THE INVITATION OF GROMYKO.

2. I DRAW THE TENTETIVE CONCLUSION THAT THE GOP IS SERIOUSLY PLANNING A WARMING-UP OF PAK-USSR RELATIONS AS A MEANS OF POSTPONING, COUNTERING, OR DIMINISHING THE AFGHAN PRESSURES THAT THEY EXPECT. WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, AND STILL BELIEVE, THAT ANY SUCH WARMTH WILL BE LIMITED BY THE ATTITUDES OF PAKISTAN'S CLOSE FRIENDS THE PRC, IRAN, AND THE SAUDIS, AS WELL AS BY DEEPLY-HELD SUSPICIONS OF SOVS AMONG MOST PAKISTANIS (SEPTEL). NEVERTHELESS, IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF THE PAKS BEGIN THESE MOVES AS A RESULT OF WRONG ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT FUTURE US SUPPORT AND COOPERATION, AND TAKE SOME STEPS THAT MIGHT FURTHER INHIBIT

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OUR ABILITY TO BE HELPFUL.

3. I WOULD HOPE THAT THIS VEXING SITUATION COULD QUICKLY BE EXPOSED TO THE FRENCH, THEREFORE, AS A MEANS OF SPEEDING UP THEIR NOTIFICATION TO THE PAKS OF THE CANCELLATION OF THE REPROCESSING CONTRACT, THUS FREEING US TO OFFER THE PAKS THE KIND OF US ASSISTANCE THAT MIGHT CHANGE THEIR MINDS ABOUT APPROACHING

THE SOVIETS. ALTHOUGH I CAN'T PRETEND TO ANY INSIGHTS INTO THE FRENCH SCENE, I WONDER IF THE FRENCH BUREAUCRACY MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO TRY NEGOTIATING WITH US SPECIFIC ASSURANCES OF COOPERATION IN PAKISTAN BEFORE THEY NOTIFY THE PAKISTANIS, THUS DELAYING THE EXPOSURE TO TPE PAKS OF THE FULL RANGE OF PAK OPTIONS IN THE NEW, POST-REPROCESSING ERA.

HUMMEL

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